The Coldness of the Festival City Salzburg

My Perspective on the City of Salzburg November 22, 2025, 1:33 AM

The Coldness of the Festival City

My fundamental rejection and deep contempt for the city of Salzburg and its population are rooted in the immense suffering I endured during my childhood in homes and foster care. Added to this is the unbearable emotional coldness, the "Salzburg Grant" (grumbling/grumpiness), and the often aggressive verbal language to which I was exposed, especially in my youth.

I view Salzburg as a sort of "Schicki-Micki" (snooty/posh) and "Concrete City," which owes its wealth to salt, but whose splendor today comes at the expense of nature. While the city celebrates its Festivals, I mourn the reckless urbanization, the destruction of green spaces and trees, which, to me, drives the soul out of the city. The fact that the city mountains have not yet fallen victim to economic interests seems like a miracle to me. My central conflicts with the Salzburg population are:

Emotional Coldness and Distance: Since my birth, I have felt no connection to the people of Salzburg. I experienced dispossession and a lack of recognition. For me, people in Salzburg are distant rationalists for whom possessions, origin, and titles mean everything, and who have pushed me to the edge of my existence. I believe the emotional coldness prevailing in Salzburg is a main reason why there are so many suicides in this city.

Hostility and Contempt: I perceive the attitude towards foreigners, refugees, and the socially disadvantaged as exemplary cruel and disrespectful. There is a xenophobic attitude and a contempt for people without family support or status. Salzburg is one of the toughest places in the world for non-Salzburgers who lack support.

Criticism of Status Thinking: In Salzburg, I am scrutinized from head to toe. Only those who possess an officially recognized title or status are respected. I see many people in Salzburg as "ass-kissers" who bow to the powerful out of fear for their own security.

Personal Trauma: The termination of my job as a night porter at Hotel Gablerbräu due to notice after an

unprovoked street attack (during a deep grieving period) exemplifies, for me, the merciless coldness of this city. I feel great disappointment about the political situation. Mayor Heinz Schaden never advocated for the disadvantaged but instead presented himself alongside the strongest forces in the economy.

The reasons why I left this city are manifold: My dreadful childhood (comparable to a horror movie), the increasing destruction of the environment, the emotional coldness, the high cost of living, the bad air, and finally, the demand from a Salzburg resident: "If you don't like it, just move away!"—which I eventually did. Even though my gut once spoke the word "hatred," I know that this emotion does not solve problems but rather entrenches them. Therefore, I distance myself from it. Despite my fundamental rejection, I always want to preserve the hope for reconciliation with the people of Salzburg, because ultimately, we are all just human beings, and I am ready to forgive their mistakes.

Hallein, Austria 11/22/2025

Source: meinbezirk.at

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Keywords: #PeterSiegfriedKrug #SalzburgCriticism #OrphanageChildhood #LifesWork #DigitalExistence #FideMaster #YogaTeacher